

Prison on February 23, 1945. Ms. Baker's execution date was rescheduled for March 5, 1945. She is the only woman to be executed by electrocution in the State of Georgia.

She went to the electric chair calmly and bravely. Her last words were, "What I done, I did in self-defense, or I would have been killed myself. Where I was I could not overcome it. God has forgiven me. I have nothing against anyone."

Ms. Baker is buried in the cemetery at Mt. Vernon Baptist Church in Randolph County, where she once worshiped. In 1998 a group of church members finally marked her grave.

In August 2005, the State Board of Pardons and Paroles posthumously pardoned Ms. Baker, acknowledging that the 1945 decision to deny clemency to Ms. Baker was "a grievous error" and that she could have been charged with the lesser crime of voluntary manslaughter, which would have prevented the sentence of capital punishment.

Mr. Speaker, it is my hope that the dedication of her tombstone today can heal the wounds of the past. May Lena Baker now truly rest in peace.

THE RENEWABLE ENERGY APPLIED PARTNERSHIPS (REAP) ACT

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 12, 2011

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, Hawaii, like the rest of the United States, is entirely too dependent on imported fossil fuels. We must speed up the development of renewable energy technologies that can help wean us from our oil dependence and create economic growth at home. If we sow the seeds of renewable energy innovation today, we will be able to reap the benefits for years to come.

Today I introduce the Renewable Energy Applied Partnerships (REAP) Act. This bill will create a Department of Energy pilot program to provide grants to partnerships which will include community colleges and universities, businesses, nonprofits, labor organizations, state education agencies, National Academies, and other public agencies. These partnership grants can be used to train teachers, recruit students, design renewable energy instructional programs, and encourage collaboration between faculty and industry partners.

The bill builds on the Perkins Career and Technical Education Act to help students learn practical skills for future careers in renewable energy and STEM fields. Partnerships will also receive priority if they can demonstrate long-term sustainability without continued federal funding.

Hawaii is at the forefront of innovation in the renewable energy sector, and I have visited many existing cross-sector partnerships in wind, solar, biofuels, and other renewable energy technology. It is my hope that this bill will help support the very best of these collaborations in Hawaii and around the country, to create jobs and train the next generation of renewable energy workers.

For his work on this bill last Congress, I thank my former colleague, Congressman Patrick Murphy of Pennsylvania, the first Iraq War veteran in Congress and a fighter for STEM education in Pennsylvania and nationwide.

HONORING THE LIFE OF A HISTORIC HMONG LEADER: GENERAL VANG PAO

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 12, 2011

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life, service and sacrifice of Gen-

eral Vang Pao, who passed away yesterday evening in Clovis, California. General Vang Pao was a historic Hmong military leader who led his people against communist forces during a turbulent time in Laos from 1961 to 1975. In this country, General Vang Pao served as a civilian leader who continued to lead the Hmong American community for nearly four decades.

My heart-felt sympathy goes out to General Vang Pao's family and to all the Hmong-American families in Minnesota and across the U.S. Over the years, I had the honor of joining General Vang Pao at many events such as: the Hmong American New Year celebrations and the July Soccer Festival celebrations in St. Paul, as he had always come to the Twin Cities to join the Hmong community for those events. Most recently, I had the great honor of joining him for the grand opening celebrations of the Hmong Village Center on the Eastside of St. Paul on October 30, 2010. Although frail from his failing health and sitting in his chair, the General was in good spirit and spoke eloquently to a large gathering crowd at the celebrations. Sadly, this was the last time I saw him.

General Vang Pao's influence has touched the Hmong-American community deeply, and I know the community will continue to share and cherish the memories of his legacy for future generations to come. In honor of General Vang Pao's lifetime of service to his people and loyalty to the U.S., I am pleased to submit this statement for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.